

House File 548 - Reprinted

HOUSE FILE 548
BY COMMITTEE ON COMMERCE

(SUCCESSOR TO HSB 191)

(As Amended and Passed by the House March 26, 2015)

A BILL FOR

1 An Act requiring the Iowa utilities board to adopt
2 administrative rules relating to the safety of distributed
3 electric generation facilities.

4 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF IOWA:

1 Section 1. NEW SECTION. 476.58 Safety of distributed
2 generation facilities — disconnection device required — rules.

3 1. For purposes of this section:

4 a. "*Disconnection device*" means a lockable visual disconnect
5 or other disconnection device capable of disconnecting and
6 de-energizing the residual voltage in a distributed generation
7 facility.

8 b. "*Distributed generation facility*" means any of the
9 following:

10 (1) A cogeneration facility or a small power production
11 facility that is a qualifying facility under 18 C.F.R. pt.
12 292, subpt. B, used by an interconnection customer to generate
13 electricity that operates in parallel with the electric
14 distribution system, and that typically includes an electric
15 generator and the equipment required to interconnect safely
16 with the electric distribution system or local electric power
17 system.

18 (2) An alternate energy production facility as defined in
19 section 476.42.

20 (3) A small hydro facility as defined in section 476.42.

21 c. "*Electric distribution system*" means the facilities and
22 equipment owned and operated by an electric utility that are
23 used to transmit electricity to ultimate usage points from
24 interchanges with higher voltage transmission networks which
25 transport bulk power over long distances and that generally
26 operate at less than one hundred kilovolts of electricity.

27 d. "*Electric meter*" means a device used by an electric
28 utility that measures and registers the integral of an
29 electrical quantity with respect to time.

30 e. "*Electric utility*" means a public utility that furnishes
31 electricity to the public for compensation.

32 f. "*Interconnection customer*" means a person that
33 interconnects a distributed generation facility to an electric
34 distribution system.

35 2. Consistent with the board's safety jurisdiction pursuant

1 to section 476.1, the board shall adopt rules pursuant to
2 chapter 17A relating to the safe installation and operation of
3 interconnections between distributed generation facilities and
4 electric distribution systems. The rules shall include but not
5 be limited to the following:

6 *a.* A requirement that a disconnection device be installed
7 at a location that is easily visible and adjacent to an
8 interconnection customer's electric meter. For installations
9 placed in service prior to July 1, 2015, a requirement that an
10 interconnection customer provide and attach a permanent placard
11 at the electric meter that clearly identifies the presence and
12 location of disconnection devices for distributed generation
13 facilities on the property.

14 *b.* A requirement that interconnection customers notify
15 local paid or volunteer fire departments of the location of
16 distributed generation facilities and associated disconnection
17 devices upon completion of installation and procedures for such
18 notifications.

19 *c.* Procedures for electric utilities to deny or disconnect
20 service for safety reasons to a person who does not comply with
21 rules adopted pursuant to this subsection.

22 3. Procedures and requirements provided in rules adopted
23 pursuant to subsection 2 shall apply to all electric utilities
24 and all interconnection customers in this state. However,
25 only those rule provisions concerning interconnections between
26 distributed generation facilities and electric distribution
27 systems and safety issues shall apply to utilities over which
28 the board's jurisdiction is limited by section 476.1A or
29 476.1B.

30 4. This section shall not be construed to expand the
31 board's jurisdiction over a utility over which the board's
32 jurisdiction is limited by section 476.1A or 476.1B. This
33 section shall not be construed to authorize the board to
34 require that an installation or connection of a distributed
35 generation facility, disconnection device, or interconnection

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1 between a distributed generation facility and an electric
2 distribution system be performed by a licensed electrician,
3 installer, or professional engineer. This section shall not
4 be construed to require inspection of a distributed generation
5 facility, disconnection device, or interconnection between a
6 distributed generation facility and an electric distribution
7 system pursuant to chapter 103.